REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending in the application. Claims 1-16 stand rejected.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and the remarks hereinbelow.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. 103:

Claims 1-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shen et al. (6,545,660) and Satoh et al. (6,675,197).

In the Office Action of January 30, 2004, Shen et al. U.S.P. 6,545,660 is said to show a method that includes, inter alia, the steps of accepting metadata input on screen by the user (Col. 3, lines 38–45, Col. 4, lines 40-55) and accepting metadata input on screen by the user, characterizing the group of pictures (Col. 4, liens 12-24 and 40-55). However, the reference does not appear to provide factual support for this assertion. Specifically, Shen et al. states the following at col. Lines 12 24:

> FIG. 2 shows icons of the place mat or control panel 200 in greater detail. Each user control panel includes the following icons: an inkpad 210, a keyboard 220, a people 230, a calendar 240, a work space 250, a new 260, a location 270, an events 280, a show 290, and a summary 295. A mouse or a touch sensitive technique can be used to activate the icons of the control panels 200. Initially, the icons are displayed as black on a white background, but when an icon is activated or selected, the icon is displayed in full color.

> The inkpad icon 210 switches operation to a mode where a pointing device, e.g., a mouse or a finger, can be used to select an area of the displayed image, see FIG. 6. The keyboard icon, when activated, displays a touch sensitive keyboard, see FIG. 19. The people icon 230 displays a people panel, see FIGS. 3-4. The calendar icon 240 displays images in a calendar view, see FIG. 5. The workspace icon 250 displays a workspace and any images that last were part of the work space. The work space behaves as a scratch or copy buffer. Pictures saved in the workspace can be later recovered.

Accordingly, what is stated in this area is that a touch sensitive keyboard 220 can be displayed. There is no discussion in the cited section detailing how the keyboard is to be used for annotative purpose or suggesting the steps of: providing a single information entry area for receiving information about the group of pictures; accepting metadata input on-screen by said user to the

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information entry area, said metadata characterizing said group of pictures; and automatically associating the accepted metadata with the pictures of the group.

The material at Col. 4, lines 40-55 of Shen et al. states as follows:

> *FIG. 3 shows the arrangement of the pictures when the people icon 230 is activated or selected. In this case, each picture 105 includes a picture of one or persons, and annotation text identifying the people in the pictures. Initially, the pictures are shown using a gray scale. If a specific picture 105 is specifically selected, then that picture is shown in full color.*
>
> *The picture is shown with an orientation towards the control panel from where the selection took place, i.e. generally facing the user that selected the picture. Should another user subsequently want to view the same picture, selection will rearrange and reorientate the picture in the overall image accordingly. FIG. 4 shows two selected pictures 105 , and a tab area 400 where the selections. e.g.. "Nadine" and "Max, " are marked with an "x" 401 . Pointing at the "X" will deselect the picture.*

Here too, Shen et al. merely notes that a specific a picture can be selected and that pictures can be associated with text. Shen et al. does not show where or how the text is entered and clearly does not describe any of the steps of: providing a single information entry area for receiving information about the group of pictures; accepting metadata input on-screen by said user to the information entry area, said metadata characterizing said group of pictures; and automatically associating the accepted metadata with the pictures of the group.

Shen et al. does state at col. 3, lines 45 – 52 that:

> *The main purpose of the system 2000 is to manipulate and present photographs, slides, text, videos, hereinafter "pictures" 105. The pictures are manipulated by the users using the control panels. The pictures can be associated with sound-tracks so that when pictures are selected, the sound-track can also be played. The pictures can also be annotated with text.*
>
> *The "pictures" 105 are organized in a relational database 2001, described in further detail below, see FIG. 21. The pictures can be in the form of digital images, e.g., files with bmp. .jpg. mpg. .gif, .pdf, or .eps extensions, to name but a few. Pictures can have associated audio files in .wav files, for example. As described below, each picture is annotated according to names or "people," date or "calendar," location, and events.*

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And later states the following at Col. 5, lines 60 - 64:

> The annotate function 2140 is used to add the name, date, location, and events 2111-2114 annotations to the pictures 105 stored in the picture database 2001.

However, there is no indication as to how or when the pictures are annotated.

Thus, Shen et al. merely stands for the proposition that pictures can be annotated with information such as name, date and location. However, Shen et al. does not provide any teaching or suggestion providing a single information entry area for receiving information about the group of pictures; accepting metadata input on-screen by said user to the information entry area, said metadata characterizing said group of pictures; and automatically associating the accepted metadata with the pictures of the group.

The Office Action of January 30, 2004, notes that

> Shen et al do not go into the details of the single information entry area accepting and containing (inputted) information about the group, but do mention efficient user access to a grouping on a display. Futhermore, this is a common feature to user interfaces, as in Satoh, et al. for example. See in Satoh et al: a single entry eare accepting and containing (inputted) information about a group of data items (area 55 of Fig. 5, the focused in group information area shown in Fig. 6, Col. 11, lines 12 – 55) This is done for efficient user acess to a grouping on a display. It would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art to have this in Shen et al. because it would allow efficient user access to a grouping on a display.

The applicants' understand this argument to contend that it is known to provide a display area on a display that shows a group of things and that contains inputted information about the group. That is, information about the group is presented in the area. However, as amended, claim 1 claims that the information entry area is adapted to receive information about the group of pictures. The cited portion of Satoh et al. does not provide any teaching in this regard as Satoh et al. states the following at Col. 6, lines 12 – 55:

> Fig. 5 illustrates an example of the system manipulation display image. In the client system 10, the system manipulation display image 50 illustrated is provided to users by the WWW browser 13. This manipulation display image 50 includes the URL input image 51 with which a user can request information to the common information database 30, the common information display image 52 with which a user can designate the work area 52a to the

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common information or can executes the edition work, the work area display image 53 for displaying the work area 52a designated or edited by user in the common information display image 52, the grouping condition input image 54 for inputting the condition requested by user at the time of generating the communication group and the session information display image 55 for displaying information about the generated communication session. In the work area display image 53, the scroll bars 53a, 53b for adjusting and moving the work area are prepared. Here, the grouping condition input image 54 corresponds to the image provided by the grouping condition registration unit 4c of FIG. 1.

First, a user inputs the URL of the information to be obtained to the WWW browser 13 from the URL input image 51. The input URL is transferred to the common information database 30 via the WWW browser 13 and communication device 16. The communication device 31 of the common information database 30 transfers, in turn, the transferred URL to the common information storage device 32 and the common information storage device 32 extracts the relevant information to return to the client system 10 via the network 40 from the communication device 31. The returned information is entirely displayed as the over view on the common information display image 52 by the WWW browser 13 of the client system 10.

FIG. 6 illustrates a display example of the common information display image of the information which the plural users have. According to the example illustrated in the figure, the common information displayed in the common information display image 52 is the HTML document in which comments of the plural users and related information (for example, summary of contents of these comments) are expressed as the network diagram.

Next, a user inputs, in the grouping condition input image 54, the condition for generating the communication group. In this embodiment, as illustrated in FIG. 5, the communication group is generated depending on the three grouping conditions of "the work condition resembles very much, or resembles or resembles a little" and selection of these conditions can be set in the checkboxes.

Area 55 of Satoh et al. therefore comprises only an area that shows information about a communication session. The textual word "group" appears in Fig. 6. Nothing in the cited area of Satoh et al. suggests that area 55 is used for receiving information about a group of pictures, accepting metadata input on-screen by said user to the information entry area, said metadata characterizing said group of pictures or that the accepted metadata is automatically associated with the pictures of the group.

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CONCLUSION

Shen et al. and Satoh et al. alone and in combination do not provide a factual basis for the conclusion that claim 1 is obvious in light of the combination of the references. Accordingly claim 1 and all claims that depend upon claim 1 are believed to be in a condition for allowance. Claim 9 is believed to be allowable for the same reasons stated with respect to claim 1 and accordingly Claim 9 and all claims the depend from claim 9 are believed to be in a condition for allowance.

It is respectfully submitted, therefore, that in view of the above amendments and remarks, that this application is now in condition for allowance, prompt notice of which is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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